

STUDENT STATUS

Purpose: This section explains how students may be eligible for food assistance and when student status ends.

WAC 388-482-0005 Student status for food assistance.

- (1) A food assistance client is considered a student when the client is:
 - (a) Aged eighteen through forty-nine years;
 - (b) Physically and mentally able to work; and
 - (c) Enrolled at least half time in an institution of higher education as defined by the institution.
- (2) An institution of higher education is:
 - (a) Any educational institution requiring a high school diploma or general education development certificate (GED);
 - (b) Business, trade or vocational schools requiring a high school diploma or GED; or
 - (c) A two-year or four-year college or university offering a degree but not requiring a high school diploma or GED.
- (3) To be an eligible student in the food assistance programs, a student as defined in subsection (1) of this section must meet one of the following:
 - (a) Work and receive pay for a average of twenty hours each week. A self-employed student's weekly earnings must be equal to or above the federal minimum wage multiplied by twenty hours.
 - (b) Work and receive money from a federal or state work study program;
 - (c) Be responsible for the care of their child age five or younger;

<div><div>(d) Be responsible for the care of dependent household member six through eleven years of age and the department has determined that there is not adequate child care available during the school year to allow the student to:</div><div><div>(i) Attend class and satisfy the twenty hour work requirement; or</div><div>(ii) Take part in a work study program.</div></div><div>(e) Be a single parent responsible for the care of their child eleven years old or younger even if child care is available;</div><div>(f) Be an adult who has parental control of a child eleven years of age or younger and neither the adult's spouse nor the child's parents reside in the home;</div><div>(g) Participate in the WorkFirst program as required under WAC 388-310-0400;</div><div>(h) Receive benefits from TANF or SFA;</div><div>(i) Attend an institution of higher education through:</div><div><div>(i) The job training partnership act (JTPA);</div><div>(ii) Food assistance employment and training program (FS E&T);</div><div>(iii) An approved state or local employment and training program; or</div><div>(iv) Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974.</div></div><div>(4) Student status:</div><div><div>(a) Begins the first day of the school term; and</div><div>(b) Continues through vacations. Vacations include the summer when the student plans to return to school for the next term.</div></div><div>(5) If the only reason a student is eligible for food assistance is the participation in</div></div>

work study, the student becomes ineligible during the summer months if the student is not working and receiving money from work study. Consider other student eligibility criteria during the summer months.

- (6) Student status ends when a student:
- (a) Graduates;
 - (b) Is suspended or expelled;
 - (c) Drops out; or
 - (d) Does not intend to register for the next school term other than summer.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

First a determination must be made if the client is a student. If the client is a student, then determine if the student is eligible for food assistance.

1. Courses Not Considered Higher Education

A student is not considered enrolled in an institution of higher education if the student attends only for the purpose of participating in one of the following programs:

- a. English as a second language;
- b. High school completion and GED courses;
- c. Courses that are not a part of the regular college program; or
- d. A JTPA program contracted by a college.

2. Post Secondary Education

Post secondary education means a school not requiring a high school diploma or GED for enrollment. This includes trade schools, vocational schools, business colleges, beauty and barber schools, etc.

3. Other References

- a. See **INCOME - Exclusions** to determine how to treat income of a student who is 17 years of age or younger.
- b. See **INCOME - Educational Benefits** to determine which educational benefits are excluded.
- c. When a student declares new educational expenses after approval of food assistance, see **CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES** for determining the effective date of the change.

4. **Self-Employed Students**

Self-employed students meet the eligibility criteria when they work twenty hours each week.

5. **Income-in-Kind**

Income-in-kind is not considered payment for work and cannot be used to establish hours of work per week.

Example

A student works for the college during her summer break. Instead of paying her wages, the school deducts the income from her fall tuition costs. This is income-in-kind and does not meet eligible student criteria.

ACES PROCEDURES

If a client is identified and verified as a student on the (DEM2) screen, the fields in the (ALAS) screen become mandatory for cash and food assistance. The correct coding of these screens is critical to determine eligibility and benefit amounts.

NOTE: Student Status does not impact eligibility for Medical Assistance and completion is not required.

1. **Processing Application**

Process the application as shown in **APPLICATIONS**. Complete the (DEM2) and

(ALAS) screens in Option [O], Interview as follows:

- a. If the client is a student enter the student codes (FT, HT, or PT) in the (Student Status) field on the (DEM2) screen. Enter [NO] if the client is not a student.
- b. Establish verification in the (Verification) field if the client is a student. Press <F1> for the appropriate valid value.
- c. If the client is a student, ACES will automatically display the (ALAS) screen after the (DEM4) screen. Mandatory fields for clients designated as students are:

EDUC LEVEL - Education Level

SCHOOL NAME

DEP CARE - Dependent Care Expense Code

Press <F1> when entering valid values for the (Education Level) and (Dep. Care) field.

2. Education Level and Valid Values

The valid value used in the (Education Level) field varies depending on the education level and the type of assistance a client is applying for/or receiving. Use the following valid values:

- a. [HI] or [HE] for a student with a high school diploma or equivalency certificate attending an institution of higher education (food assistance only).
- b. [PS] for a student without a high school diploma or equivalency certificate completing an education that will lead to gainful employment such as a vocational school, trade school, business college, beauty and/or barber school (food assistance only).